

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, commonly known as lupus, is an acute, chronic, complex, and often life-threatening autoimmune disease; and,

Whereas, Lupus can affect virtually every organ system in the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain. The disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure;

Whereas, The Lupus Foundation of America estimates that more than 1.5 million Americans live with some form of lupus, including nearly 4,000 people in South Dakota; and,

Whereas, While lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from the disease. Women of color develop lupus at a rate of two to three times the rate of Caucasians—a disparity that remains unexplained; and,

Whereas, Lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to those of many other illnesses, and major gaps exist in understanding the causes and consequences of lupus; and,

Whereas, More than half of all people with lupus take four or more years, and visit three or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis; and,

Whereas, Early diagnosis and proper treatments are critical to the improvement of the quality of life and survival rate of those living with lupus; and,

Whereas, Lupus impacts more than just the life of the patient; it affects their family, friends, co-workers, employers, and the community; and,

Whereas, Increased public awareness, education, and research are key to winning the battle against lupus:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May, 2011, as

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I urge our citizens to educate themselves on the symptoms and impact of lupus, and join with lupus advocacy groups in support of programs of research, education, and community service.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eleventh Day of April in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven.

Dennis Daugaard
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason M. Gant
Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State